

Preliminary Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-33, delete without prejudice.

34. (New) A bumper assembly for a dock leveler system having a deck that can pivot, at least, between a cross-traffic position and a below-dock position, the bumper assembly comprising:

a biasing mechanism adapted to provide an upward force;

a bumper coupled to the biasing mechanism and disposed for substantially vertical movement between the below-dock position against the upward force under a downward moving force of the deck and the cross-traffic position when said downward moving force is removed; and

an engagement surface carried by the bumper and being adapted to be selectively engaged by the deck to move the bumper between the cross-traffic position and the below-dock position.

35. (New) The bumper assembly of claim 34, further comprising a track mounted independent of the deck, wherein the bumper is coupled to the track for substantial vertical movement along the track.

36. (New) The bumper assembly of claim 35, wherein the track is mounted to the dock face between the dock face and the bumper.

37. (New) The bumper assembly of claim 34, wherein the deck of the dock leveler system includes an upper lip that engages the engagement surface of the bumper to impart the downward force.

38. (New) The bumper assembly of claim 37, wherein the upper lip is disposed on an angled block depending from the deck of the dock leveler system.

39. (New) The bumper assembly of claim 38, wherein the bumper further comprises an angled face disposed adjacent the engagement surface and disposed to transfer a horizontal impact to the angled block on the deck.

40. (New) The bumper assembly of claim 34, wherein the biasing member is a tension spring.

41. (New) The bumper assembly of claim 34, wherein the biasing member is a compression spring.

42. (New) The bumper assembly of claim 34 wherein the biasing member is a gas spring.

43. (New) The bumper assembly of claim 34, wherein the biasing member includes a counterweight.

44. (New) The bumper assembly of claim 34, wherein the bumper is operative in the below-dock position.